GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1741
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS OF PHCS
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether primary health centres in our country are running short of doctors, lab-technicians and compounders as per the recent report of 'National Rural Health Mission';

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government is formulating any scheme to improve the condition of Primary Health Centres keeping in view the revelations made in the said report; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) & (b) : As on March, 2007 there is a shortfall of 1410 doctors at Primary Health Centres across the country. A total of 7352 PHCs are functioning without lab technicians.

(c) & (d) :The PHCs are run by the State/UT Governments. Under National Rural Health Mission[NRHM], funds are released to States/UTs Governments for upgradation and strengthening of Primary Health Centres including contractual appointment of staff. The State/UT Governments are however required to incorporate their requirement in their annual NRHM Programme Implementation Plans.
A Task Group constituted under the National Rural Health Mission under the chairmanship of Director General of Health Services has recommended the following measures to ensure the services of doctors in rural areas :

#Increase in the age of retirement of doctors to 65 years preferably with posting near hometown;

#Decentralization of recruitment at district level;

#Walk-in-interview and contractual appointment of doctors;

#Enhancing the salary for posting in rural areas by one-third.